

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of making a fiber reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition and forming a fabricated article therefrom comprising the steps of:
 - (1) introducing into an extruder a thermoplastic polymer,
 - (2) introducing into the extruder a masterbatch comprising an elastomer,
 - (3) plasticating the thermoplastic polymer and the masterbatch in the extruder forming a molten thermoplastic polymer composition,
 - (4) introducing a continuous reinforcing fiber material into the molten thermoplastic polymer composition,
 - (5) extruding a molten fiber reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition and
 - (6) forming a fabricated article comprising the fiber reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition.
2. (original) The method as taught in Claim 1 further comprising, between the steps of (5) and (6), the steps of:
 - (i) extruding the molten fiber reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition through a die forming a continuous extrusion of heated fiber reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition having a desired cross-sectional shape,
 - (ii) conveying the continuous extrusion of heated fiber reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition to a cutter,
 - (iii) cutting the continuous extrusion into a plurality of preforms and
 - (iv) conveying the preforms away from said cutter into a compression mold, a vacuum forming mold or a thermoforming mold.
3. (original) The method as taught in Claim 2 wherein the mold in step (iv) is a compression mold.
4. (withdrawn)
5. (withdrawn)
6. (original) The method as taught in Claim 1 further comprising, between the steps of (5) and (6), the step of:
 - (xii) extruding the molten fiber reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition through an extrusion profile die having a desired shape.

7. (original) The method as taught in Claim 1 wherein the extruder is a single screw extruder or a twin screw extruder.
8. (original) The method as taught in Claim 1 wherein the elastomer is a polyolefin elastomer.
9. (original) The method as taught in Claim 1 wherein the elastomer is a substantially linear polyethylene polymer or a linear ethylene polymer comprising ethylene and a C₃ to C₂₀ alpha olefin.
10. (original) The method as taught in Claim 1 wherein the elastomer is a substantially linear polyethylene polymer or a linear ethylene polymer comprising ethylene and an alpha olefin selected from the group consisting of propylene, butene, hexene or 1-octene.
11. (original) The method as taught in Claim 1 wherein the elastomer is a substantially linear polyethylene polymer comprising ethylene and 1-octene.
12. (original) The method as taught in Claim 1 wherein the masterbatch further comprises talc, clay, wollastonite, mica, calcium carbonate, a thermal stabilizer, an ultra violet (UV) light stabilizer, a coupling agent, colorants, an antioxidant, an antistat, a clarifier, a nucleating agent, a flame retardant, or mixtures thereof.
13. (currently amended) The method as taught in Claim 1 wherein the reinforcing fiber material is continuous ~~or discontinuous and is~~ glass fibers, carbon graphite fibers, polyester fibers, KEVLAR polyaramid fibers, hemp fibers, metal fibers or metal coated fibers.
14. (canceled)
15. (original) The method as taught in Claim 1 wherein the reinforcing fiber material is a plurality of continuous glass fibers.
16. (original) The method as taught I Claim 1 wherein the fabricated article is a vehicle bed liner; a vehicle instrument panel, a vehicle cowl, a vehicle fender, a vehicle panel, a vehicle body cover, a vehicle underbody, an electrical equipment device housing, a crate, lawn and garden furniture, a floor covering or a wall covering, wherein the vehicle is a car, a truck, a snow mobile, a personal water craft, an all terrain vehicle, a lawn and garden tractor, farm equipment or a golf cart.
17. (original) The method as taught in Claim 1 wherein the fabricated article is a golf cart underbody.